

3. (Amended) A nucleic acid according to claim 1 [or claim 2, characterized in that it is] wherein the nucleic acid is a promoter of the gene for the beta 2 toxin of *Clostridium perfringens* or a fragment thereof.

Claim 4, line 1, change "characterized in that" to wherein.

Claim 5, line 1, change "characterized in that" to wherein.

6. (Amended) [An] The expression cassette according to claim 4 [or claim 5, characterized in that it] further comprising [comprises] a secretion signal between the nucleic acid and the transgene.

7. (Amended) An expression cassette according to [any one of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 4, wherein the transgene codes for a toxin or a fragment or a variant of the toxin.

Claim 8, line 1, change "characterized in that" to wherein.

9. (Amended) A vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 1 [or an expression cassette according to claim 4].

Claim 10, line 1, change "characterized in that" to wherein.

Claim 11, line 1, change "characterized in that" to wherein.

12. (Amended) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 1 [or an expression cassette according to claim 4 or a vector according to claim 9].

13. (Amended) A cell according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein it is a prokaryote cell [, preferably a bacterium].

15. (Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide, [characterized in that it comprises] comprising culturing a recombinant cell according to claim 12 [comprising an

expression cassette according to claim 4 or a vector according to claim 9, the transgene coding] wherein the nucleic acid codes for said polypeptide.

16. (Amended) A process according to claim 14 [or claim 15, characterized in that] wherein the cell is a bacterium from the genus *Clostridium*.

17. (Amended) A process according to [any one of claims 14 to 16 for producing] Claim 14, wherein said process produces a toxin or a toxoid.

Please add the following claims:

24. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising expressing the nucleic acid of Claim 1.

25. An isolated recombinant beta 2 toxin.

26. A vector comprising the cassette according to claim 4.

27. A recombinant cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 4.

28. A recombinant cell comprising the vector of claim 9

29. A recombinant cell comprising the vector of Claim 26.

30. The cell according to claim 12, wherein the cell is a bacterium.

31. The cell according to claim 27, wherein the cell is a bacterium.

32. The cell according to claim 28, wherein the cell is a bacterium.

33. The cell according to claim 29, wherein the cell is a bacterium.

34. A process according to claim 15, wherein the cell is a bacterium from the genus *Clostridium*.

35. A process for producing a polypeptide, comprising culturing the recombinant cell of claim 27.

36. A process for producing a polypeptide, comprising culturing the recombinant cell of claim 28.

37. A process for producing a polypeptide, comprising culturing the recombinant cell of claim 29.

38. A process for preparing an immunogenic composition comprising expressing one or more toxins or the corresponding toxoids in a cell according to claim 12;

harvesting a supernatant ;

optionally, treating the supernatant to purify or concentrate the toxin or toxoid;

inactivating the toxin or toxoid; and

optionally packaging the inactivated toxin or toxoid.

39. A process for preparing an immunogenic composition comprising expressing one or more toxins or the corresponding toxoids in a cell according to claim 27;

harvesting a supernatant ;

optionally, treating the supernatant to purify or concentrate the toxin or toxoid;

inactivating the toxin or toxoid; and

optionally packaging the inactivated toxin or toxoid.

40. A process for preparing an immunogenic composition comprising expressing one or more toxins or the corresponding toxoids in a cell according to claim 28;

harvesting a supernatant ;